



A.M.E. sets new security standard

Casady & Greene ships gamma copies

By Henry Norr

Carmel, Calif. — It all began in November 1987, when a group of 8-year-old children beta testing a new Mac game decided to make more room on the hard disk they were using by throwing away some files. The game was Casady & Greene Inc.'s *Crystal Quest*; the disk belonged to Terry Kunysz, the company's vice president of sales and marketing and father of one of the youngsters; and the files contained important and personal financial data that had not been backed up.

Out of that incident arose the idea behind A.M.E., or Access Managed Environment, a new Casady & Greene program designed to provide a system administrator or authorized user with the most extensive and sophisticated set of security safeguards and access controls yet offered for the Mac.

This month, after more than two years of development and 10 months of beta testing at 135 sites, Casady & Greene began a limited gamma release of A.M.E. Version 1.0.2 — a real-world trial designed to ensure that what may be the most complex Mac utility ever written is bug-free. The developer is offering the software direct to up to 2,000 customers at \$85 per copy; once it passes that test, A.M.E. will go into general distribution as Version 1.1 at \$279 per copy, with the upgrade going free to gamma purchasers.

Version 1.1 also will be offered in a five-user pack priced at \$895 and a 10-user pack at \$1,495.

Written by *Crystal Quest* author Patrick Buckland, A.M.E. consists of two Startup documents (INITs), a desk accessory, an installer and a set of associated utilities. Features include:

- ▶ A password system for users

and files that offers administrators a wide range of configurable options, among them the ability to require that all users choose a password and change it at specified intervals. The software can even check that new user passwords differ substantially from old ones.

- ▶ A hierarchical system of privileges, through which an administrator can authorize or prevent access by individuals and groups to specified system and A.M.E. functions. Besides password protection, file security options include two types of encryption and key-disk access controls. Files can be made accessible in an anti-piracy "run but not copy" mode.

- ▶ A Trusted Software function designed to ensure that only unmodified, uninfected versions of programs registered by the administrator can be used on the machine.

- ▶ A log that records access attempts and tracks specified activities, such as launching of applications and use of serial ports, printers, DAs and disks by any or all users.

- ▶ Visual and audio alerts in case of unauthorized activity.

- ▶ A System Folder Snapshot feature that can prevent alteration of any file in the folder.

- ▶ Control over the Chooser name, with an option to have the program set the Chooser name to match the name of the current user.

- ▶ Special options intended for Macs in university labs, dealer showrooms and other publicly accessible locations.

Cris Maloney, supervisor of the Microcomputer Technologies Group at Infotron, a Cherry Hill, N.J., telecommunications and networking company, said he hopes to install the program on all of the 200 Macs he oversees. "It's as much a corporate management tool as a security product," he said. "It's very well-thought-out and flexible."

Steve Chazin, an engineer at

Raytheon Co. in Tewksbury, Mass., said, "They've tried pretty hard to make it the only security package you'll need. You can make it as secure as you want; it's defied every one of my attempts to break it."

Chazin said that A.M.E.'s seven-pass erasure option, which meets Defense Department standards, was especially welcome because in the past Raytheon has had to throw away hard disks after declassification.

Casady & Greene Inc. can be reached at P.O. Box 22920, Carmel, Calif. 93922; (408) 624-8716. □

If A.M.E. can't do it, maybe T.A.M.E. can

If A.M.E.'s own elaborate access controls are still insufficient, Casady & Greene Inc. will offer T.A.M.E., a special version of the program bundled with TouchSafe, a desktop fingerprint reader manufactured by Identix Inc. of Sunnyvale, Calif.

Connected to a Mac serial port, the device scans fingerprints and records a digital image. Access is controlled by comparing a print to one taken when the user is first registered in the system. Up to three fingers can be registered at a rate of about 30 seconds per finger; subsequent verification takes about two seconds, Casady & Greene said.

To ensure that it can't be fooled by a photostat or a wax or clay model, the TouchSafe records blood-flow patterns under the fingerprint. According to Casady & Greene, that feature also prevents attempts to use a disembodied finger to gain access to a T.A.M.E.-d Mac.

Prices start at about \$3,000.

— By Henry Norr

MacUser

BUSINESS ACCOUNTING

atOnce!

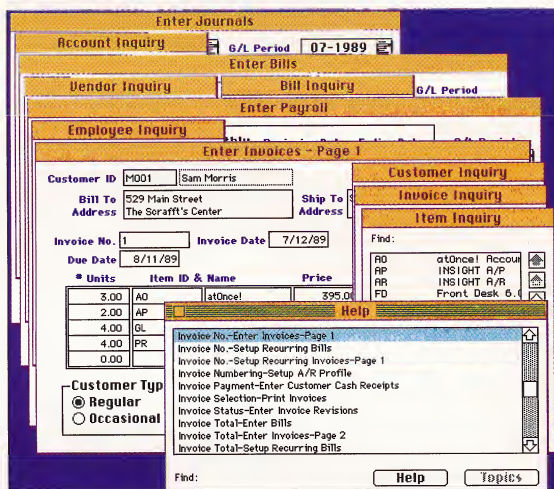
With an established accounting system for big businesses, Layered has now turned with equal success to smaller operations.

🏠 If your company offered one of the market's leading integrated accounting systems for high-transaction businesses, a logical product-expansion strategy would be to take what you'd learned and build a similar system for small businesses. That's exactly what Layered, the publisher of the Insight accounting series, has done with atOnce!, a direct challenger to Monogram's Business Sense (see Reviews, September '89) and Computer Associates' Simply Accounting (see "Accounting for Taste," April '89).

WHAT IT IS atOnce! is an integrated general-ledger, accounts-payable, accounts-receivable, and payroll system for small businesses. The system is designed to work in stand-alone mode for businesses with up to approximately \$10 million in annual sales.

atOnce! achieves its integration through automatic posting routines — any information entered into one of the modules is automatically reflected throughout the system. You can open many modules at once, so you can simultaneously enter invoices into accounts receivable and switch to accounts payable without closing out your receivables.

The system offers the requisite minimum multilevel password protection for protecting the integrity of your business information. Output can be directed to the screen, to the printer, or to a print queue for larger batch-printing jobs.



A spin-off from the Insight series, atOnce! is Layered's integrated accounting package for small businesses. Every window in every module can be open simultaneously, so any data entered into one module flows through the entire system.

A helpful feature in atOnce! is Inquire, which lets you keep lists of your general-ledger accounts, customers, invoices, bills, employees, and the like on your desktop as a reference guide outside the accounting system. The system is driven by an icon-based application palette that controls your navigation through the four modules.

In the general ledger, atOnce! offers a flexible fiscal calendar that can have 12 or 13 periods per fiscal year with up to 26 open periods stored on-line. Each period can have its own starting and ending date. The general ledger tracks actual versus budget performance for all income and expense accounts, and it is able to accommodate up to 20 customized checkbooks.

For account numbering, the general ledger can use user-definable account numbers of two to eight digits. The ledger can handle up to 100 departments and divisions, and it supports auto-reversing and recurring entries. In short, the general ledger does just about everything Insight does, but for a smaller business.

The general ledger includes a standard set of accounting reports as well as a custom report writer for creating tailored financial statements.

The accounts-receivable module uses the open-item or the balance-forward accounting method for the entire company or for a specific customer's account, as you choose. Automatic discount and sales-tax calculations are supported, as are flexible account-aging periods and recurring invoices. Each customer can have a unique alphanumeric customer ID. atOnce!'s accounts-receivable module supports custom invoice and statement forms through its intelligent formatting and printing system.

The accounts-payable module offers the same features as does the accounts-receivable module. In addition, atOnce!'s accounts-payable module has a recording feature for handwritten checks, and it can also print checks. The two capabilities can be used in tandem. For small businesses, where cash flow is a concern, atOnce! has a powerful and flexible payment-selection function that helps manage disbursements.

Finally, the payroll module is a full-function payroll system that can handle any number of employees. It can accommodate after-the-fact payrolls and can

Get Info

atOnce! \$\$\$1/2

List Price: \$395.

Published by: Layered, The Schrafft Center, 529 Main St., Boston, MA; (617) 242-7700.

Version: 1.0.

Requires: System 4.1 or later; two 800K drives (hard-disk drive recommended).

Application Size: 800K.

Compatibility: Mac Plus or later.

automatically calculate all standard deductions as well as up to 20 standardized deductions.

Payroll can simultaneously handle hourly and salaried employees under a wide range of pay-period options, such as monthly or weekly. Each employee gets a unique alphanumeric employee ID, which makes system inquiries a snap. Payroll supports handwritten checks, a full W-2, taxes, deductions, and payroll reporting.

HOW IT WORKS atOnce! makes excel-

lent use of the Mac interface and builds on the state-of-the-art programming techniques developed for the Insight series. The system's natural ebb and flow is easy to follow, and if you get tripped up, its excellent context-sensitive, on-line help quickly gets you back on track.

The documentation, which comes in two softcover volumes, is equally well organized and remarkably unimposing, considering that it's almost as thick as a desk dictionary.

atOnce! has clearly set the pace for

small-business accounting, or write-up, systems. It has better password security than either Business Sense or Simply Accounting and, unlike its competitors, also packs customizable reports. During tests, the system performed well without exception. By virtue of its highly interactive and well-thought-out processing and interface design, atOnce! promises to become one of the first Mac accounting systems that acts as a business tool, not just a bean counter.

— Ken Landis